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May 13, 1919

The Club met at the American Museum of Natural History. President Richards called the meeting to order at 8:15 P.M. There were twenty persons present.

Dr. F. W. Pennell, chairman of the Field Committee, discussed the proposal to announce a joint field excursion with the Philadelphia Botanical Club to Farmingdale, N. J., on May 30. He proposed to make the excursion a one-day trip with the provision that anyone wishing to stay over could do so. The motion to adopt this suggestion was carried.

President Richards announced that the 90th birthday of Capt. J. Donnell Smith would occur in the near future. Dr. Pennell moved to appoint a committee to write a letter of felicitation to Capt. Smith, expressing the Club's appreciation of the memorable work he has done in advancing the knowledge of plants. The President appointed Dr. N. L. Britton, Dr. R. A. Harper and Dr. M. A. Howe, members of the committee to draw up this letter.

No other business was transacted.

Dr. Isaac Levin gave the lecture of the evening, "Neoplastic Diseases (Cancer) in the Animal and vegetable Kingdoms." The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides.

Adjournment followed.

B. O. Dodge,
Secretary.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. D. S. Johnson of Johns Hopkins University, accompanied by three of his students, has just returned from Jamaica. Collections for morphological work were made in the Blue Mountain region and in Liguanea Plains.

W. H. Blanchard wishes his botanical friends and correspondents to know that, owing to the development of cataracts on both eyes, his botanical work seems at an end. Mr. Blanchard was a frequent contributor to the American botanical press from 1902 to 1911, most of his published work relating to the genus *Rubus* as it occurs in eastern North America; his summary of his conclusions regarding the species of this genus in that area was published in the *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* (38: 425–439. 1911.)

Messrs. Barrington Moore, G. P. Burns, C. C. Adams, T. P. Hankinson and Norman Taylor, spent a week in August studying the ecological relations of the plants and animals near the summit of Mt. Marcy in the Adirondacks. This trip was to continue work started during the first week in June by the committee on cooperation of the Ecological Society in America.

One of the most dangerous diseases of Irish potatoes has been discovered in the United States. Rough, spongy outgrowths of varying size are produced on the tubers, especially at the eyes. These warts are light brown at first, but become black and decayed with age. Sometimes all potatoes in affected hills are worthless. The disease does not attack the vines above ground. The wart is caused by a parasitic fungus (*Chrysophlyctis endobiotica* Schilb.), which was named and described by Schilberszky, a Hungarian scientist, in 1896. It is one of the lowest members of the Chytridiaceae, a group of parasites that attack the stems, leaves, and especially the roots of many wild and cultivated plants. Although it belongs in the same great group of fungi as the common bread mold, it produces no mold growth and is so small that it can hardly be seen with the naked eye.

The first volume of *The Cactaceae* by N. L. Britton and J. N. Rose was issued by the Carnegie Institution on June 21. The work will comprise four volumes. The first contains descriptions and illustrations of groups allied to *Opuntia* and of the prickly pears themselves, and is one of the most sumptuous botanical publications recently issued. It will be reviewed in an early issue of TORREYA.